

NEW BOOKS.

Continued from Ninth Page.

fatality, he supplies an exciting life and death struggle for nearly every chapter; he keeps his hero, a volatile and accomplished Irish adventurer worthy of Charles Lever, who is equipped with a brogue and an insatiable appetite for fighting, constantly in action, so that he as well as the reader feels relieved when the story is restored to its proper place at the end.

It is a screaming farce with comic incidents in quick succession that Mary Roberts Rinehart has written in "When a Man Marries" (the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis). The author seems to have had the dramatic possibilities of her plot in mind rather than the story. If this be so it will account for what would be defects if she were judged by her previous books. The misadventures turn on a bachelor's dinner party being quarantined for a week without servants owing to a suspected case of smallpox in the house.

The most striking thing in Miss Carolyn Wells's attempt in the detective line of fiction, "The Clue" (J. B. Lippincott Company), is the unconcerned manner in which the characters regard the victim of a foul murder, a young girl about to be married. They are all palpably more interested in Miss Wells's efforts to tangle up the mystery than in their friend. The hero of New Jersey apparently demands that the detective should be neglected till the coroner has had his say. The author quite ignores the fact that the detective, in turn, and finally fastens the guilt on the person she has selected. The method by which this is done is unexpected because entirely new facts are provided at the end, brought in apparently by the new detective, who then makes his appearance. The writing of a good detective story is not so simple a matter as it seems to those who despise them; they cannot be dashed off even by a writer of Miss Wells's versatility.

In a humorous short story that hardly warrants a book form, "Honk, Honk!" (O'Dell Kennerly), Mr. Sewell Ford recounts Shorty McCabe's experience in learning to manage an automobile. There is dialect and there is some technical vocabulary, but the novice will call for some safer guide.

A pretty love story by Frances Foster Parry, "Their Heart's Desire," is dressed in handsome holiday attire, colored pictures, purple and gold decorative borders, dashing cover, by Dodd, Mead and Company. The reader would prefer to hear more of the interesting infant who stirs his lagard parent to propose even at the cost of much of the sentimentality between the young folks, but he will be reconciled by a Christmas that is cheerful and does not give him the creeps.

In the days when Mr. Kipling was still writing about India the northern frontier was a region of real and absorbing interest. The fringe of semi-independent native States, beyond which the intrigues of the Russian always went forward, possessed a genuine appeal for the reader. Much of this appeal the Russo-Japanese war removed. Hence the study of the place of India, presented by Maud Diver in "Dandies in the Wind" (John Lane Company), lacks contemporary challenge. As a photograph of British internal and military administration on the march, however, it is not lacking in interest. The romance, based upon a case of misapprehension, is less attractive.

A slight but no less authentic suggestion of the emotions and passions of the days that just preceded the war gives a distinct charm to the story of "Rhoda of the Underground" (Sturgis and Walton Company, New York) by Florence Finch Kelly. The "Underground" is that famous route by which so many thousands of slaves travelled to freedom. Rhoda's "station" was on the Kentucky shore of the Ohio. Her family was torn by the great slavery question and her affection was bestowed upon a Southern slave holder. The possibilities for romantic fiction in the premises are obvious. The real interest of the book, however, lies in the more or less successful effort to present a state of public opinion and passion always interesting historically.

The reader of Ashmore Rusan's "Mighty Hunters" (Longmans, Green and Company) will fill his game bag in every page. All the animals ferocious and reptiles venomous that number Mexico contains are slain in numbers beyond reckoning by Richard Carson, El Cazador Grande of Old Mexico. We suspect that the author has laid himself liable to civil action for infringing the patent of Swana Tumbo, but at least he has recounted killings which might stock a dozen Smithsonian.

The first and only novel of the late Clyde Fitch was originally printed in a magazine in 1891. Under the title of "A Wave of Life" it is now reprinted (Mitchell Kennerly, New York). Although this second printing affords an opportunity for presenting a personal appreciation of the author, there is no reason to believe the book itself will find more favorable reception than at its previous publication.

Our acquaintance with the houseboat folk of the Mississippi is limited, but we are willing to wager that no better woman than the wife of Seldom-fed was ever mated with a river fisherman. Her many weaknesses of character, the philosophy of her husband and their life on the river form the background for the story of the wife Alby in Jay Cady's "The Moving of the Waters" (the John McBride Company, New York). It is evident from the beginning that Alby was the daughter of superior persons, and it is pleasant to know that after a series of strange adventures she comes to her own in happiness.

There are many strange and puzzling things about "Jord, Cleve" (Cochran Publishing Company, New York), a Mormon farmer whose life story is told by Myra Delany. Unquestionably his intellect was far more powerful than were those of his neighbors, but they stubbornly refused to admit it. Nor did

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his family recognize his genius, even when it would have been apparent to the most unobservant outsider. The strange and tragic Miss Douglas saw what he was from the beginning and his training he owed to her. He lived amid the crudities and brutalities of a community narrow, selfish and suspicious and the terrible monotony of the life is made painfully evident to the reader. The book would be improved by editing.

When Mrs. Catherwood first became sufficiently exercised over the attentions her son Jack was paying to Nan Hedge, whom she described as "that hedge girl," to speak to her husband about them she selected a very bad time for her disclosure, as William John Hopkins is careful to explain in his book "Old Harbor" (Houghton Mifflin Company). Colonel Catherwood was on his way to bed for the night when she opened her fears to him. He treated them lightly. Perhaps he would have done this no matter at what hour she approached him on the subject, yet Mrs. Catherwood was right. Nan did pursue Jack, as McLean, the garrulous keeper of the drug shop, well knew. But then, pursuit, capture and vain attempts to escape were constant in Old Harbor, as they are elsewhere. A smooth, enjoyable, well written story, revealing life in a New England seaport in most alluring fashion and making all of us wish we might live in Old Harbor.

Mrs. Barr has given us another picture of life in Colonial New York in "The House on Cherry Street" (Dodd, Mead and Company). The period in which she puts her characters is half a century before the Declaration of Independence, when the cherry street was in its glory. She introduces easily and naturally the characters of the time and imparts a modest amount of instruction in history as she unfolds the tale. Particularly she tells of the worthy and valiant Peter Zenger, that admirable soldier of free speech. A good story of the infant New York, with its Dutch and English, its local and international jealousies and conflicts, that we are far more likely to think of too little than too much.

Arthur J. Westermeyer's "Power of Innocence" (R. F. Fenno and Company, New York) is the record of a most unsatisfactory experiment undertaken by Graf Grauburg in the adoption and training of a waif of the streets of Venice. As is usual in such cases, at least in fiction, the waif develops into a woman of wonderful charm and capacity under the careful tuition of her chaperon. Those complications that ever involve such attractive young ladies are present at all times. There is an American artist who knocks the Graf down most appropriately, and this is only one of the unfortunate incidents his experiment produces.

"The story of Dorrien Carfax" (the John McBride Company, New York) is told by Nowell Griffith in a discursive and parenthetical style that at times becomes little short of wearisome. Yet it has its charm and its obvious advantages. The author is able to draw his characters in detail, to impress their strength and weakness on the reader and to make clear the relations of cause and effect; and the men and women he has put into his book are worth knowing, as the entanglements into which their lives are brought are interesting to follow. There are many passages in the tale worth remembering; many repetitions.

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Castles in France.

A beautiful illustrated holiday book is issued by the Century Company in "The Chateau of Touraine," by Maria Horner Laurendeau, with colored pictures by Jules Guérin. The author of the text apologizes in the preface for the introduction of some chateaux that properly belong in the Orleans; rather needless precision, for to the traveller or the art lover Blois and Chambord belong with the others. The text is conscientious and full of information; it can stand by itself without the illustrations, and tells satisfactorily the history of each building, with some description.

The large page makes it possible to present pictures of unusual dimensions. The photographs are admirable and well selected; they give an excellent idea of the buildings described and will make those who have not seen them wish to go to Touraine. M. Guérin's drawings are interesting and attractive; they are beautiful decorative pictures that show poetic feeling, but in which it is impossible not to feel that the subject is subordinate to the artist's color scheme.

For Young American Patriots.

A summary of the causes of the Revolution, the questions in issue and the results given by Mr. Tudor Jenks in "When America Won Liberty" (Thomas Y. Crowell and Company). The book begins with the struggle between France and England for the possession of the continent and ends with the adoption of the Constitution and the winding up of matters that arose out of the war. It is written for young people and is an account of ideas and tendencies, not a narrative history of events.

In "The Musketeer Boys of Old Boston" (Cupples and Leon Company, New York) Mr. George A. Warren makes several wide awake boys of that town look on or participate in the events that opened the Revolution; Paul Revere's ride, the Concord fight, Bunker Hill and the evacuation of Boston. He dilutes the historical part, however, with an equal portion of the boys' own affairs.

The same events are lived through by other boys in Mr. John T. McIntyre's "The Young Continentals at Lexington" (the Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia), save that the story ends with the arrival of the routed Britishers in Boston. Here too private affairs mitigate the severity of history.

The doings of various young men along the waterfront of New York and in Harlem just as the Revolution broke out are told by Mr. James Otis in "The Minute Boys of New York" (Dana Estes and Company, Boston). The author adopts a stilted antiquarian style, but the historical incidents he employs are not so well known as those in many other stories of this kind.

It is on the local history of Deerfield and its neighborhood that Mary P. Wells Smith draws for "Boys and Girls of Seventeen," and much of the story part is taken from the traditions of the Wells family. The scene is limited to that corner of the country and the culmination is Burgoyne's surrender.

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An unusual setting is provided for "American Patty," by Adele E. Thompson (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company). An American family that has settled in Canada goes through the trials of the "Liberty or Death" (Dodd, Mead and Company). There is excitement enough in accompanying Ethan Allen to Ticonderoga, Montgomery to Quebec and fighting with Stark at Bennington. The history is complicated with a love tale.

The adventures of some young Union soldiers who escape from Andersonville provide the story for Mr. Everett T. Tomlinson's "For the Stars and Stripes" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company). What history appears is in solid tablets. It might just as well be left out, for how- ever authentic the incidents may be, the interest is wholly in the chase after the fugitives and not in any historical event that occurs at the time.

An amazingly accomplished midshipman is the hero of Dr. Cyrus Townsend Brundage's "On the Old Kearsarge" (Charles Scribner's Sons), and he keeps attached to him an even more efficient bosun's mate. Between them they do many wonderful things. They are present at the sinking of the Cumberland by the Merrimack and in the fight between the Kearsarge and the Alabama. For what reason the author has changed the name of Capt. Winslow when he retains the other real names we cannot make out; his note does not explain.

Boys' Books: Sequels.

For one class of books for the young little comment is called for from the reviewer; the authors and their heroes are well known to their readers who are impatient for the continuation of their favorite adventures, whether in serials in the magazines or in new books at the holiday season. The number of these books is legion; we call attention to a few.

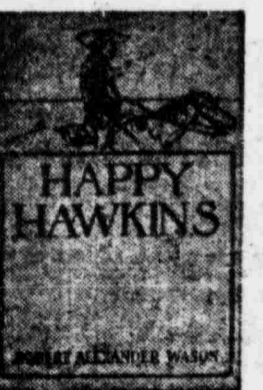
The story part of Mr. Walter Camp's "Jack Hall at Yale" (Appletons) is of relatively little importance. Various young men who appeared in Mr. Camp's first story are put through their paces; there is something about the junior promenade, something about the senior society elections, and so on, but what Mr. Camp cares for and what his young readers want of him is football, and that they get in this book. There are descriptions of games, there are directions to players, and what is of particular importance, there are discussions on the tactics of the game and on new plays. Talent which older readers would ap-

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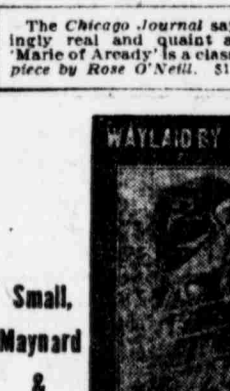
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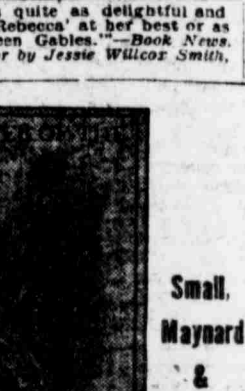
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preciate is turned by Mr. Joseph A. Altshuler to the service of youth, and perhaps in these simpler narratives he has freer scope to display his real feeling for open air life. In "The Free Rangers" he continues the adventures of his young Kentsuckians of the Daniel Boone days; he takes them down the Mississippi to Spanish New Orleans and back again, a journey involving the frontiersmen in fights with Indians and Spaniards and with the elements, enough to satisfy any healthy appetite. There is promise of further adventures.

The waters of Puget Sound are the scene, the foiling of villainous smugglers and of land sharks the theme of Mr. James Cooper Wheeler in "Captain Pete of Cortesana" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The valiant hero who distinguished himself in an earlier book shows equal prowess in this and brings confusion on his enemies.

Youths whom Mr. James Shelley Hamilton had put through the freshman year at Trisham College are carried along a year further in "The New Sophomore" (Appletons). The easy anagram is made more clear by the incidents concerning the rape of a "statue," involving a contest between the even and the odd numbered classes. The series will be enjoyed naturally by Amherst men; it will interest all those also who have attended colleges that were not swamped by numbers.

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many that we cannot pretend to remember to which series "Double Play" (Appletons) belongs. It describes enthusiastically the interest of a set of active boys in their school sports, especially baseball, and incidentally the curing of a rich man's son of his plutocratic habits. Another excellent tale of lumbering in the Maine woods is told by Mr. Clarence B. Burleigh in "With Pickpocket and Peavay" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, Boston). The adventures are out of the common run in so far as they relate to the processes by which the logs are brought to market; the young heroes, however, encounter here as in a previous book a remarkable amount of villainy, which though it provides excitement is much like that in other boys' books.

One not very pleasing feature of college life, the participation in athletic contests of a general nature, predominates in Mr. T. Truxton Haro's "A Junior in the Line" (the Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia), the third in a series. While school incidents and intercollegiate sports fill part of the volume, much space is given to the trip of the school team to England and to the Olympic games at Paris. Unconsciously the author shows how much time is wasted on these affairs. It is not likely that the Naval Academy will escape the notice of youth while

Continued on Eleventh Page.

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